

Why did Shelly choose the following passage for the epigraph of her novel?

Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay

To mold me Man, did I solicit thee

From darkness to promote me?

Paradise Lost, Book X, lines 743-745

Group name	Quotation	Explication of quotation
Franken- Steinbeck	"Or rather, stay, that I may trample you to dust! And oh! That I could, with the extinction of your miserable existence, restore those victims whom you have so diabolically murdered!"	Victor refers to his creation by saying he has a "miserable existence." In the epigraph, it quotes Paradise Lost and it parallels how the creation feels about Victor: the creation didn't want to be created just to be tormented, and the quote vividly shows how Victor mistreated his creation, threatening that he can kill his monster at any time, and that by doing so he could avenge the people the monster
Regret	"God, in pity, made man beautiful and alluring, after his own image; but my form is a filthy type of yours, more horrid even from the very resemblance."	In this frustration, the creature describes his existence, calls his his own form a wretched perversion of man's, whereas man has been exalted by his creator, the creature is abhorred by his. The hateful words he uses to describe his own existence characterize him as self loathing, thus the epigraph in which Satan asks if he asked to be brought
Frank- Einstein	"Cursed, cursed creator! why did I live? Why, in that instant did I not extinguish the spark of existence that you had so wretchedly bestowed?" (chap. 16)	into a wretched existence fits the creature's mindset completely. Both quotations reflect the same basic sentiment: the creature did not ask to be created. However, the creator blames the creation for its error despite the exclusion of the creation by the creator. The romantics, including Shelley, sympathize with Satan and his woes. Solent, in the original quote, means to ask for something from someone, generally.
Wretched Devils	"God, in pity, made man beautiful & alluring, after his own image; but my form is a filthy type of yours, more horrid even from the very resemblance." Is. 116	Frankenstein was created against his will and experienced a life full of misery and pain. Both quotes are hinting at the fact that it is better not to create life if the life is going to only know suffering and not love. Shelley included this because it paralleled Frankenstein's questioning of his creator, Victor. Frankenstein did not assist Victor to make him, and ultimately regretted his miserable life.

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Franken- go kill yourself	"Curst, curst, I woe! why did I live? why, in that instant did I not extinguish the spark of existence that you had so wretchedly created."	Both quotations address the fact that Frankenstein's creature and Adam did not ask to be alive or to be born or created. The creature is complaining to its creator. Both quotations show a frustrated and complaining tone, through diction of the words, "solicit thee", as if it pains him to be created like his life is not happy. Frankenstein's creature uses the words "curst" and says that Frankenstein "wretchedly" created him. He wishes he had "extinguished" his own life, showing how miserable he feels.
Doomed	"All men hate the wretched; how then, must I be hated, who I am miserable beyond all living things! Yet you, my creator, do stand and spurn me."	Frankenstein is asking how he should be held accountable if he was involuntarily created and his creator hates him. He understands that he is unwanted and turns the blame to Victor.

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The Literary Scholars Part 2	"But I was, wretched, helpless, and alone. Many times I had considered satan fitter emblem of my condition."	Shelly chose the epigraph to foreshadow the issues regarding the existence of this wretched creation. In both the being is wondering what reasons compelled his creator to bring him to life and be so isolated. The quote also shows that the monster believes he is on the level of Satan.

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Dirty Mike & the Boys	"Remember, that I am thy creature; I ought to be thy Adam; but I am rather the fallen angel, whom thou drivest from joy for no misdeed."	The constant of human creation is to wish for the beauty of positive attributes of their creation to resemble the positive attributes of themselves. The creation will succeed and impress and this will also bring recognition to the positive attributes of yourself. However creations do not ask to be created and life can be created but life with a will cannot be controlled. As the monster becomes self aware he wants to live his own life without any obligation to better his master.